

CORRESPONDENCE.

NOTICE OF AN OMISSION FROM LECONTE'S EDITION OF THOMAS SAY'S WRITINGS.—In the Journal of the Academy of natural science of Philadelphia, July 1817, v. 1, p. 45-48, Thomas Say, in an article entitled, "Some account of the insect known by the name of Hessian fly, and of a parasitic insect that feeds on it," describes *Cecidomyia destructor* and its parasite *Ceraphron destructor*, and gives a short account of the habits of each species. This article is reprinted correctly in Leconte's edition of Say's writings, v. 2, p. 6-7. On p. 63 of the Journal, for August 1817, however, just before the explanation to the plate, Say inserted a note which Leconte overlooked and which is here republished, both as showing a curious mistake made by Say, and to correct the omission from the "Complete writings." Say says:—

"I forgot to mention in its proper place that the parasitic insect, *Ceraphron destructor*, which is so commonly mistaken for the *Cecidomyia*, after the business of propagation is performed, throws off its wings as a useless incumbrance, in this respect resembling some species of the genera *Formica*, *Termites*, &c., to which it also bears some resemblance in point of form and appearance; this has led many to suppose that the Hessian-fly is in reality no other than a species of pissmire in its apterous state, T. Say."

Of course Say is mistaken in his statement that the wings were shed after copulation. It not uncommonly occurs among the *Pteromalinae* that certain individuals (both male and female) have only rudimentary wings—mere pads which never become developed into wings. This is the case with the species under consideration, the relative proportion of the winged to the wingless individuals varying with the climate and the season.

L. O. Howard.

A BUTTERFLY ATTRACTED BY LAMP-LIGHT. I do not remember any published account of the attraction of diurnal lepidop-

tera by lamplight, except the note by Mr. S. H. Scudder in *PSYCHE*, v. 1, p. 28 [Rec., 659], but in two instances I have taken specimens of the eyed emperor (*Apatura lycæon*, Fabr.) in this way. After ten o'clock of the evening of 20 August 1882, a perfect, but not entirely fresh, specimen came in at the open window of my sitting-room and was captured with a butterfly net. The other example referred to was taken earlier in the evening, but after the lamps were lighted. The close proximity of a hackberry tree (*Celtis*), on which the larvae feed, accounts for the presence of these insects in the neighborhood, but does not give us the key to their unusual nocturnal activity. *Mary Esther Murtfeldt*.

PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES.

LINNEAN SOCIETY OF LONDON.

20 Dec. 1883.— . . . Mr. J. Maule Campbell showed the web of a spider (*Tegenaria guyonii*) which had been spun in the centre of a pasteboard cylinder; the peculiarity being the manner in which the solid part of the web was medially swung; whereas in this species of spiders it is more usually on the sides of objects.

17 Jan. 1884.— A paper was read by Mr. A. D. Michael on the "Hypopus" question or life history of certain Acarina. From a careful series of experiments and observations he concludes that—true "Hypopi" are not adult animals but only a stage or heteromorphous nymphs of *Tyroglyphus* and allied genera. Nor do all individuals become "Hypopi," which latter stage takes place during the second nymphal ecdysis. It seems a provision of nature for the distribution of the species irrespective of adverse conditions. "Hypopi" are not truly parasitic nor confine themselves to any particular insect. A new adult form described is called by the author *Disparipes bombi*, and he believes there are other species of the genus *Dormadicus* be-parasites admitted to be adults, though it is uncertain if they are identical with Dufour's *Trychodactylus*.—From J. Murie in *Zool. anzeiger*.